

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

FOR MILWAUKEE COUNTY/WOW COUNTIES

DECEMBER 2003



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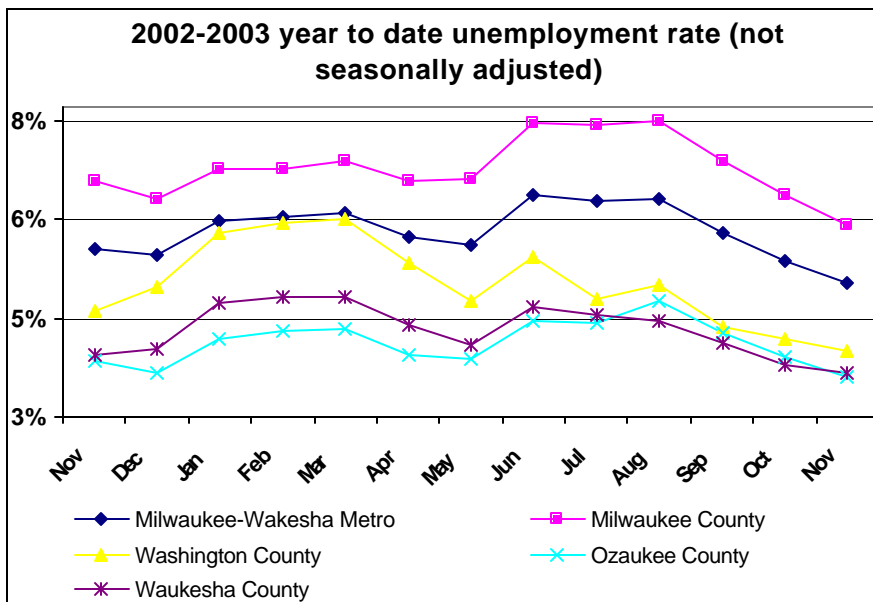
Unemployment Rates Lower in November

Milwaukee County's unemployment rate dropped considerably in November to 6.1 percent. The rate dropped five-tenths of a percent point to its lowest rate since December 2001, which registered a clip of 5.5 percent. November is a month that is usually very "quiet" in regards to monthly labor force changes and is normally not so volatile. November figures showed a great deal of movement showing both fewer employed and unemployed residents in the last month. In short, the labor force declined in November, which is coupled with the fact that job growth in the metro area also showed a slight decline. Annually, the unemployment rate is seven-tenths of a percent point lower than in November 2002; the largest annual decline since September 1999.

Washington County's November unemployment rate was 4.1 percent. This is lower than the month-ago and year-ago figures by two-tenths and six-tenths of a percent point, respectively. Washington, like the other three metro counties, had fewer employed and unemployed residents in November; a month that usually does not experience labor force decline. If anything, on average, there is usually a slight rise in the number of both employed and unemployed. Nonetheless, labor force growth has been subdued in 2003 regardless of the fact that current figures show employment growth and an unemployment rate lower by six-tenths of a point, annually, down to its lowest rate since December 2001.

November's unemployment rate was 3.7 percent in **Ozaukee County**, down from October's rate by three-tenths and last November's rate by two-tenths. This has been the

lowest rate recorded in Ozaukee County in 2003. Since last November, Ozaukee has 640 more employed residents and 70 fewer unemployed, which is quite an improvement given the fact that labor force growth has been a bit low in the past two years. This is the third straight month to show a decrease in the unemployment rate.



Waukesha County's unemployment rate dropped slightly by one-tenth of a point over the month. Annually, it is lower by three-tenths.

The **Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA** industry employment data total close to 833,000 jobs, which is a reduction of almost 2,300 jobs over the month. Both leisure and hospitality and construction

employment decreased by 1,700 jobs, each, over the month. Professional and Business services decreased by 1,400 jobs over the month as a majority of this loss, 600 of the jobs, were in temporary or outsourced employment. Retail trade showed 1,100 more jobs, though this is a relatively small increase for November. Manufacturing showed a net increase of 200 jobs with durable goods production employment gaining 500 jobs since October.

Annually, the metro area is running a 9,800-job deficit compared to last November. Manufacturing, retail trade, and professional and business services show the largest sector job losses. Management of companies (-900 jobs) and temporary or outsourced employment (3,500 jobs) show the largest industry losses in the professional and business services sector. Professional and scientific services shows an employment gain of 1,300 jobs over the year.

	Wisconsin	Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA	Milwaukee County/WDA	Washington County	Ozaukee County	Waukesha County	W-O-W WDA
November 2003							
Civilian Labor Force*	3,074,604	814,635	482,219	69,043	48,584	214,789	332,416
Persons Employed	2,937,646	772,640	452,807	66,237	46,808	206,788	319,833
Persons Unemployed	136,958	41,995	29,412	2,806	1,776	8,001	12,583
Unemployment Rate	4.5%	5.2%	6.1%	4.1%	3.7%	3.7%	3.8%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries** (Thousands)	2,799.8	833.1	530.3	47.2	37.4	218.2	302.8
Goods Producing Jobs	632.1	168.9	81.2	16.0	11.5	60.2	87.7
Service Producing Jobs	2,167.7	664.2	449.1	31.3	25.9	158.0	215.3
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	123.8	33.0	12.9	2.9	1.5	15.6	21.1
All Manufacturing	508.3	135.9	68.3	13.1	10.0	44.6	67.5
Total Trade	446.1	121.5	66.6	7.3	5.4	42.1	54.5
Wholesale Trade	117.5	39.9	20.1	2.0	1.4	16.3	19.9
Retail Trade	328.6	81.6	46.5	5.3	4.0	25.9	34.6
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	105.2	29.7	22.1	1.5	0.4	5.6	7.6
Financial Activities	158.5	59.9	41.5	2.0	2.1	14.3	18.3
Education and Health Services	372.5	134.2	98.6	5.6	4.6	25.5	35.4
Leisure & Hospitality	232.4	61.9	39.7	4.3	3.1	14.8	22.8
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	430.1	161.7	112.6	5.4	5.9	37.8	49.4
Information	50.1	19.6	13.5	0.5	0.3	5.4	6.2
Professional and Business Services	243.7	100.3	72.4	2.2	3.7	22.0	28.3
Other Services	136.3	41.8	26.8	2.6	1.9	10.5	14.9
All Government	422.9	95.3	67.9	5.2	4.4	17.8	27.2
Change from October 2003							
Civilian Labor Force*	-15,930	-5,480	-3,930	-340	-290	-920	-1,550
Persons Employed	-11,880	-2,200	-1,290	-190	-130	-590	-910
Persons Unemployed	-4,050	-3,280	-2,640	-150	-160	-340	-640
Unemployment Rate	-0.1%	-0.4%	-0.5%	-0.2%	-0.3%	-0.1%	-0.2%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries** (Thousands)	-4.5	-2.3	-1.1	-0.2	-0.1	-0.9	-1.1
Goods Producing Jobs	-4.9	-1.5	-0.6	-0.1	-0.1	-0.7	-0.9
Service Producing Jobs	0.4	-0.8	-0.6	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.2
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	-3.8	-1.7	-0.7	-0.1	-0.1	-0.8	-1.0
All Manufacturing	-1.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Total Trade	4.6	0.8	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.4
Wholesale Trade	-1.6	-0.3	-0.2	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.1
Retail Trade	6.2	1.1	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.5
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	0.4	-0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.1
Financial Activities	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Education and Health Services	0.1	0.6	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
Leisure & Hospitality	-7.0	-1.7	-1.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.4	-0.6
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	-4.1	-1.3	-1.0	0.0	0.0	-0.3	-0.3
Information	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Professional and Business Services	-2.6	-1.4	-1.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.3	-0.4
Other Services	-1.3	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
All Government	5.6	0.7	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
Change from November 2002							
Civilian Labor Force*	58,480	6,440	3,100	500	560	2,280	3,340
Persons Employed	71,840	10,480	6,140	900	640	2,810	4,340
Persons Unemployed	-13,360	-4,040	-3,040	-400	-70	-530	-1,000
Unemployment Rate	-0.5%	-0.5%	-0.7%	-0.6%	-0.2%	-0.3%	-0.3%
Total jobs of all non-farm industries** (Thousands)	-5.1	-10.0	-4.8	-0.8	-0.7	-3.7	-5.2
Goods Producing Jobs	-22.8	-7.9	-3.8	-0.8	-0.5	-2.8	-4.1
Service Producing Jobs	17.8	-2.0	-1.0	-0.1	-0.1	-0.9	-1.1
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	-6.3	-1.5	-0.6	-0.1	-0.1	-0.7	-0.9
All Manufacturing	-16.5	-6.5	-3.3	-0.6	-0.5	-2.1	-3.2
Total Trade	9.4	-3.0	-1.7	-0.2	-0.1	-1.1	-1.4
Wholesale Trade	2.8	-0.7	-0.4	0.0	0.0	-0.3	-0.4
Retail Trade	6.6	-2.3	-1.3	-0.1	-0.1	-0.7	-1.0
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	-0.1	-0.5	-0.4	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.1
Financial Activities	4.6	1.1	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3
Education and Health Services	11.1	5.8	4.3	0.2	0.2	1.1	1.5
Leisure & Hospitality	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	1.3	-2.7	-2.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.6	-0.7
Information	-0.7	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Professional and Business Services	0.7	-3.5	-2.5	-0.1	-0.1	-0.8	-1.0
Other Services	1.3	0.6	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
All Government	-9.5	-3.2	-2.3	-0.2	-0.1	-0.6	-0.9

* Labor force figures are **not** seasonally adjusted and are commonly revised. Figures from "place of residence" survey from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Local Area Unemployment Statistics program. **Figures based upon "place of employment" survey from the BLS, Non-Farm Wage and Salary estimates.

Month and year ago change figures are rounded and may not sum to total

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